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Thursday, January 10, 1952

I went to the Steering Committee meeting of the European Defense Force Conference this morning. Alphand started off by saying there should be no further discussion of who might make concessions on what, but that all parties, in the light of the ministerial decisions, should go ahead and see whether some of the remaining items of disagreement could not be settled in a mutually satisfactory manner. Some progress toward this end was made during the meeting and the atmosphere was encouraging. It does not appear, however, from telegrams received today that van Zeeland is in a cooperative mood, or is inclined to yield on the arbitrary positions he has taken. Van Zeeland evidently desires to have these armies constitute a coalition, and the community would be such in name only, since the national governments would exercise final decisions on all matters of real importance.

I went to pay a return call on the Czech Ambassador at 15, Avenue Charles Floquet. He speaks no French, English, and through an interpreter we spent most of our time discussing the etymology of Slavic languages. He is [redacted] amiable in manner.

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I attended the lunch at the American Club, at which I announced the election of officers for the forthcoming year. Horton Kennedy had been reelected President. Alan Kirk made a good off-the-record speech regarding his experiences in Moscow.

Dr. Joseph Koepfli, Scientific Adviser to the Secretary, came to see me with Bob Terrill. He is a Californian, and had a letter of introduction to me from Lorraine Shevlin. The Department proposes to assign here two competent scientists, who will maintain close contact with their French colleagues on developments in the field of their interest.

Bob Low paid a call. He has left Time, Life and Fortune, established an office in Paris, and hopes to build up a public relations office in Europe, serving not only United States interests abroad, but foreign firms who carry on activities in the United States.

Gilbert Rémy asked me whether I could arrange to get for some friends of his permission to republish each month portions of the National Geographic Magazine. The French group will look after the financing entirely. He thinks -- and I agree -- that this would be

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helpful in bringing about a better knowledge in France of conditions at home.

Rémy is [redacted] disturbed [redacted] the fall of the French Government, and the fact that France lacks a stable executive.

The Turkish Ambassador called on me. He is [redacted] anxious [redacted] the French Parliament [redacted] ratify before the Lisbon meeting the entrance of Turkey into NATO. This has been promised [redacted] him, but since the government has fallen he is apprehensive [redacted] it will not be accomplished. He asked me to see Maurice Schumann about this as soon as possible, which I undertook to do.

Orson Welles visited me. He is [redacted] man. He has been asked to read tonight portions of the Declaration of Independence at a meeting to be held in honor of Léon Jouhaux, [redacted] recently awarded a Nobel prize. Welles inquired whether there could be any possible objection to his complying with this request. I assured him we would be [redacted] pleased to have him do so.

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The bad news came in this afternoon that General de Lattre is in a dying condition. This will be a hard blow to the French operations in Indochina. But above all, I feel sorry for Madame de Lattre -- a charming woman, whose life was entirely centered on her son, killed in Indochina, and the General.

Bill Humphreys came in, and we talked at length about the difference in positions concerning the EDF between the Benelux countries on the one hand, and the three larger Powers on the other.

I went to see Maurice Schumann tonight at the Quai d'Orsay. We took up a number of topics, including the German wish to have the global amount of their military budget suggested by the Wise Men. We are in accord that this would be a good thing if it can be arranged. He is gloomy over the prospect of an early installation of a new government in France. He talked at some length about the Truman-Churchill conversations in Washington ~~which have just terminated, expressing~~ hope that the military staff talks on Southeast Asia, commencing tomorrow, may result in a decision that will alleviate to some extent the French burden in Indochina. He thinks -- as I do -- that

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these military talks will have to be followed by conversations on the political level. I told him of the intense desire of our government to obtain the necessary ratifications by NATO parliaments for the admission of Turkey and Greece to NATO before the Lisbon conference. He said he personally had done everything he could to accomplish this in the French Parliament before the Government's fall, and would himself press for such action as soon as the question could again be brought before the National Assembly. He stated that until the new cabinet was installed the parliament could not consider this matter.

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